

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Chas Vincent, on March 15, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Chas Vincent, Chair (R)
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Pat Connell (R)
Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)
Sen. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)

Members Excused:

Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Vice Chair (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Pat Christian, Committee Secretary
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 432, 3/8/2017; HB 360, 3/6/2017; HB 429, 3/6/2017; HB 433, 3/6/2017

00:01:13 Chair Vincent turned the chair over to Vice Chair Cohenour and left the meeting

HEARING ON HB 429

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:32 Rep. Mike Cuffe (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on HB 429, Water permit exemption for fire department operations.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:17 John Semple, Montana Fire Alliance

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:04:08 Jan Langel, Water Resources Division administrator, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:04:26 Sen. Barrett
00:05:05 Rep. Cuffe
00:06:26 Sen. Barrett
00:07:18 Rep. Cuffe
00:08:34 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:08:58 Mr. Langel, DNRC
00:09:03 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:09:38 Mr. Langel
00:10:11 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:10:45 Mr. Langel
00:11:22 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:11:41 Mr. Langel
00:11:59 Sen. Fielder
00:12:27 Rep. Cuffe
00:14:43 Sen. Fielder
00:15:26 Rep. Cuffe
00:15:40 Chair Cohenour
00:16:15 Rep Cuffe
00:17:13 Chair Cohenour
00:17:37 Rep. Cuffe

Closing by Sponsor:

00:17:47 Rep. Cuffe

HEARING ON HB 360

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:18:22 Rep. Bradley Hamlett (D), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 360, Establish Surface Water Assessment and Monitoring Program.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:22:21 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Association of Relators
00:24:16 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition, and Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators
00:25:54 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
00:27:47 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association and Montana Cattle Women
00:28:54 Jeff Wivholm, Montana Association of Conservation Districts
00:30:31 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association
00:31:12 Tucker Finley, Montana Public Interest Research Group
00:31:41 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:32:50 John Metesh, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG)
[EXHIBIT\(nas54a01\)](#)

00:33:54 Evan Hammer, Montana State Library

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:34:28 Sen. McNally
00:34:58 Mr. Metesh, MBMG
00:35:55 Sen. McNally
00:36:05 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:36:32 Rep. Hamlett
00:36:45 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:37:10 Rep. Hamlett
00:37:27 Mr. Metesh
00:38:06 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:38:31 Mr. Metesh
00:39:20 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:39:33 Mr. Metesh
00:40:14 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:40:49 Mr. Metesh
00:41:18 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:42:22 Mr. Metesh
00:42:42 Sen. Richmond
00:43:03 Mr. Metesh
00:43:37 Sen. Richmond
00:44:08 Mr. Metesh

00:45:05 Sen. Richmond
 00:47:09 Sen. Pomnichowski
 00:47:41 Mr. Metesh
 00:49:00 Sen. Pomnichowski
 00:49:10 Mr. Metesh
 00:49:30 Chair Cohenour
 00:49:44 Mr. Metesh

Closing by Sponsor:

00:50:19 Rep. Hamlett

HEARING ON HB 432

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:51:12 Rep. Bradley Hamlett (D), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 432, Clarify water right not abandoned if conveyance disrupted.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

00:52:33 Holly Franz, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC)
 00:57:52 Krista Lee Evans, Association of Gallatin Area Irrigators (AGAI)
 00:58:36 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
 00:59:15 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association
 00:59:55 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union
 01:00:47 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:01:31 Sen. Hinkle
 01:01:54 Rep. Hamlett
 01:06:50 Sen. Hinkle
 01:07:09 Rep Hamlett
 01:07:32 Sen. Hinkle
 01:07:57 Ms. Evans, AGAI
 01:09:31 Sen. Barrett
 01:10:43 Rep. Hamlett
 01:12:02 Sen. Barrett
 01:12:22 Rep. Barrett
 01:12:50 Sen. Connell
 01:13:08 Rep. Hamlett
 01:14:19 Chair Cohenour
 01:15:02 Ms. Franz, SWRC

Closing by Sponsor:

01:17:13 Rep. Hamlett

HEARING ON HB 433

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:19:49 Rep. Bradley Hamlett (D), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 433, Prohibit condemnation of agricultural water.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:24:03 Wilson Ilgenfritz, Montana Wool Growers Association

Opponents' Testimony:

01:25:17 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)
01:26:39 Jeff Barber, Clark Fork Coalition

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:27:29 Sen. Fielder
01:27:52 Rep. Hamlett
01:28:14 Sen. Fielder
01:28:32 Rep. Hamlett
01:28:54 Sen. Barrett
01:29:18 Rep. Hamlett
01:29:33 Sen. Barrett
01:30:00 Mr. Burton, MLCT
01:32:57 Sen. Pomnichowski
01:33:31 Mr. Burton
01:34:51 Sen. Pomnichowski
01:35:04 Mr. Burton
01:35:49 Sen. Hinkle
01:36:35 Rep. Hamlett
01:38:28 Sen. Hinkle
01:39:33 Rep. Hamlett
01:41:52 Sen. Connell
01:42:28 Rep. Hamlett
01:42:40 Sen. Barrett
01:43:01 Chair Cohenour
01:43:29 Rep Hamlett

Closing by Sponsor:

01:45:39 Rep. Hamlett

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:48 PM

Pat Christian, Secretary

pc

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas54aad.pdf](#))